

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to amend the turkey rules and regulations for the 2012 season.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations

Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season

§113. General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations

A. General Regulations. Only gobblers (male turkeys) may be taken. Taking of hen (female) turkeys, including bearded hens, is prohibited. Still hunting only. Use of dogs, electronic calling devices and live decoys is illegal. Turkeys may be hunted with shotguns, including muzzleloading shotguns, using shot not larger than #2 lead or BB steel shot, and approved archery equipment but by no other means. Shooting turkeys from a moving or stationary vehicle is prohibited. Shotguns capable of holding more than three shells prohibited. The running of coyote with dogs is prohibited in all turkey hunting areas during the open turkey season. No person shall hunt, trap or take turkeys by the aid of baiting or on or over any baited area. Baiting means placing, exposing, depositing or

scattering of corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed so as to constitute a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take turkeys. A baited area is any area where corn (shelled, shucked or unshucked), wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed capable of luring, attracting or enticing turkeys is directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed or scattered. Such areas remain baited areas for 15 days following complete removal of all such corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed. Wildlife agents are authorized to close such baited areas and to place signs in the immediate vicinity designating closed zones and dates of closures. No person hunting turkeys more than 200 yards from a baited area will be in violation of the turkey baiting regulation.

B. Tags.

1. Prior to hunting turkeys, all turkey hunters, regardless of age or license status, must obtain turkey tags and have them in their possession while turkey hunting. Immediately upon killing a turkey, hunters must attach a carcass tag to the turkey before it is moved from the site of the kill and must document the kill on the turkey harvest report card. The date of kill and parish of kill must be recorded on the carcass tag. The tag must remain attached to the turkey while kept at camp or while it is transported to the domicile of the hunter or to a

cold storage facility. Hunters who keep the carcass or meat at a camp must also comply with game possession tag regulations. Within 7 days of the kill, the hunter must report the kill. Hunters may report turkeys by calling the validation phone number or using the validation web site.

2. Turkey hunters purchasing licenses by phone or internet will be given an authorization number and a LDWF identification number that will serve as their license and tags until the physical license and tags arrive by mail. Turkey hunters who have purchased a license with tags, but have not yet received their physical license and tags, must immediately tag their kill with a possession tag before moving it from the site of the kill. The authorization number and LDWF identification number must be recorded on the possession tag. Hunters must retain documentation of any turkeys killed and upon receiving their physical tags and harvest report card, validate their kill as required in these regulations. The tags for turkeys killed prior to receiving the physical tags must be removed from the turkey harvest report card and discarded.

3. Tags removed from the turkey harvest report card prior to killing a turkey are no longer valid and if lost will not be replaced. Duplicate tags and turkey harvest report cards are available to replace lost report cards and attached tags. Hunters will be charged a fee for duplicate turkey harvest

report cards and tags. Hunters that have killed a turkey prior to losing their remaining tag and harvest report card must remove and discard the duplicate tag to account for the original tag that was used and validated. Hunters must record any previously validated turkey on the duplicate turkey harvest report card.

C. Possession of Live Wild Turkeys. No person shall take live wild turkeys or their eggs from the wild. No person shall possess captive live wild turkeys, (Meleagris gallopavo silvestris, M. g. osceola, M. g. intermedia, M. g. merriami, M. g. mexicana) or their eggs, regardless of origin, without a valid game breeder license. No pen-raised turkeys from within or without the state shall be liberated (released) within the state.

D. Statewide Youth and Physically Challenged Season Regulations. Only youths 17 years of age or younger or hunters possessing a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit with wheelchair classification may hunt. Youth must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Youths must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for youth younger than 16

years of age. Adults accompanying youth may not possess a firearm or bow. Youths may possess only one firearm or bow while hunting. The supervising adult shall maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. EXCEPT properly licensed youths 16-17 years old and youths 12 years old or older who have successfully completed a hunter safety course may hunt without a supervising adult. Only one gobbler per day may be taken and any gobbler taken by the hunter during this special season counts towards their season bag limit of 2.

E. Shooting hours: one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

F. Turkey Hunting Zone Descriptions

1. South Zone

a. All or portions (see Areas A, B, and C Descriptions) of the following parishes are open: Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Catahoula, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Livingston, Natchitoches, Point Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Landry, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Upper St. Martin, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, West Feliciana, and Winn.

2. North Zone

a. All or portions (see Areas D, E, and F Descriptions) of the following parishes are open: Bienville,

Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Claiborne, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Tensas, Union, and Webster.

G. Turkey Hunting Area Descriptions

1. Area A

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Beauregard;

ii. East Baton Rouge;

iii. East Feliciana;

iv. Grant (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

v. LaSalle;

vi. Livingston;

vii. Natchitoches (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

viii. Rapides (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

ix. Sabine;

x. St. Helena;

xi. Tangipahoa;

xii. Vernon (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

xiii. West Baton Rouge;

xiv. West Feliciana (including Raccourci Island);

xv. Winn (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Allen: North of LA 104, west of LA 26 south of junction of LA 104 to US 190, north of US 190 east of Kinder, west of US 165 south of Kinder;

ii. Avoyelles: That portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by LA 452 from Brouillette to LA 1, on the south by LA 1, eastward to Hamburg, thence by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection levee southward;

iii. Calcasieu: North of I-10;

iv. Catahoula: South and west of the Ouachita River from the Caldwell Parish line southward to LA 8 at Harrisonburg, north and west of LA 8 from Harrisonburg to the LaSalle Parish line. ALSO that portion lying east of LA 15;

v. Evangeline: North and west of LA 115, north of LA 106 west of LA 115 to US 167, west of US 167 south to LA 10, north of LA 10 west of US 167 to LA 13, west of LA 13 south of LA 10 to Mamou and north of LA 104 west of Mamou;

vi. Iberville: West of LA 1. EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries;

vii. Jefferson Davis: North of US 190 from junction with LA 26 to Kinder, west of US 165 and north of I-10 west from junction of US 165;

viii. Pointe Coupee: All of the parish except that portion bounded on the north by LA Hwy. 1, from Innis to the junction of LA Hwy 417, on the west by LA Hwy. 417 southward toward McCrea, on the south by LA Hwy. 417 from McCrea to its junction with Delhi Lane, then by Delhi Lane to LA Hwy. 418, then LA Hwy. 418 northward to LA Hwy. 1 at Innis.

EXCEPTION: see Sherburne WMA for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne boundaries.

ix. St. Landry: That portion bounded on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and on the east by the Atchafalaya River. EXCEPTION: the Indian Bayou Area, see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Indian Bayou Area dates;

x. Upper St. Martin: All within the Atchafalaya Basin. EXCEPTIONS: Sherburne WMA and Indian Bayou Area, see WMA Turkey Hunting Schedule for special season dates on all state, federal and private lands within Sherburne WMA

boundaries and see Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Indian Bayou dates;

2. Area B

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. St. Tammany;

ii. Washington.

b. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Ascension: All east of the Mississippi River;

ii. Iberville: All east of the Mississippi River;

3. Area C

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Concordia;

b. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Catahoula: All of the parish EXCEPT for that portion located in Area A;

ii. Iberia: East of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

4. Area D

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Bienville;

ii. Claiborne (Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

iii. Jackson;

iv. Lincoln;

v. Union;

b. Portions of the following parishes are also open:

i. Caldwell: West of Ouachita River southward to Catahoula Parish line;

ii. Franklin: That portion lying east of LA 17 and east of LA 15 from its juncture with LA 17 at Winnsboro;

iii. Madison: That portion lying east of US 65 from East Carroll Parish line to US 80 and south of US 80.

Also, all lands east of the main channel of the Mississippi River;

iv. Morehouse: West of US 165 from the Arkansas line to the junction of LA 140 at Bonita, north and west of LA 140 to junction of LA 830-4 (Cooper Lake Road), west of LA 830-4 to US 165 at Bastrop, south of US 165 to junction of LA 3051 (Grabault Road) south of LA 3051 to junction of LA 138, west of LA 138 to junction of LA 134, north of LA 134 to the Ouachita Parish line;

v. Ouachita: All west of the Ouachita River. That portion east of the Ouachita River lying north of US 80 to LA 139, west of LA 139 to LA 134, north of LA 134 to

the Morehouse parish line, south of the Morehouse parish line,
and east of the Ouachita River.

vi. Richland: That portion south of US 80
and east of LA 17;

vii. Tensas: That portion west of US 65
from the Concordia Parish line to its juncture with LA 128,
north of LA 128 to St. Joseph; west and north of LA 605, 604 and
3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry. Also all lands east of the
main channel of the Mississippi River;

5. Area E

a. All of the following parishes are open:

- i. Caddo;
- ii. DeSoto;
- iii. Red River;

b. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Bossier: All open except that portion
bounded on the north by I-20, on the west by LA 164, on the
south by LA 164, and on the east by the Webster Parish Line;

ii. East Carroll: East of US 65 from
Arkansas state line to Madison Parish line;

iii. Webster: All open except that portion
bounded on the north by I-20, on the east by U.S. 371, on the
south by LA 164, and on the west by the Bossier Parish line

(Exception: See Federal Lands Hunting Schedule for Kisatchie National Forest dates);

6. Area F

a. Portions of the following parishes are open:

i. Caldwell: All east of the Ouachita River;

ii. Franklin: West of LA 17 from the Richland Parish line southward to Winnsboro, west of LA 15 southward to the Catahoula Parish line;

iii. Richland: West of LA 17 from Franklin Parish line to Ringle Road, south of Ringle Road to Ferguson Road, south of Ferguson Road to Little Road, south of Little Road to Big Creek, east of Big Creek to Franklin Parish line;

iv. Tensas: East and south of US 65 from Concordia Parish line to LA 128, south of LA 128 to St. Joseph, east and south of LA 605, 604 and 3078 northward to Port Gibson Ferry.

7. Turkey season dates on Wildlife Management Areas, National Wildlife Refuges, Kisatchie National Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers land located within Areas A, B, C, D, E, and F may vary from the season set for the parish in which they are located. Seasons for these lands are specified in LAC 76:XIX.115.

H. WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations

1. WMAs with youth turkey hunts are closed to all activities except turkey hunting by authorized youth hunt participants and fishing on the day(s) of the youth hunt.

2. Self-Clearing Permits: All turkey hunts, including lottery hunts, are self-clearing. Hunters must check in daily by obtaining a permit from a self-clearing station prior to hunting. The self-clearing permit must be in the hunter's possession while hunting. Upon completion of each days hunt, the hunter must check out by completing and depositing the hunter report portion of the permit in the check-out box at a self-clearing station before exiting the WMA.

3. Lottery Hunts: All or portions of some WMA seasons are designated as lottery hunts and are restricted to hunters selected by pre-application lottery. To apply for these lottery hunts, a hunter must submit a completed official application form to the Baton Rouge office by the deadline printed on the application. A non-refundable fee of \$5 must be sent with each application. Applicants for WMA youth hunts must be 17 years of age or younger and at least 8 years old on the day of the hunt. Applicants may submit only one application and may be selected for only one spring WMA Turkey Lottery Hunt annually. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements. Hunters chosen for WMA lottery hunts may be

accompanied by one person. The person accompanying a lottery hunter shall not possess a firearm/bow or take a turkey, and must remain within a distance that allows normal voice contact with the lottery hunter at all times. Youths chosen for special youth only hunts may be assigned a guide on the day of the hunt provided that guides are available. One person may accompany the youth and guide, but may not hunt.

4. WMA Physically Challenged Hunt (Wheelchair Confined): Open only to hunters with a Physically Challenged Hunter Permit with wheelchair classification. During this hunt, ATVs may be used by hunters on all designated ATV trails in accordance with the Physically Challenged Hunter Permit. Hunters must abide by self-clearing permit requirements.

5. Rules Specific to Certain WMAs:

a. Bens Creek: No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

b. Sandy Hollow: No turkey hunting within 100 yards of food plots identified by two yellow paint rings around the nearest tree.

c. Sherburne: All turkeys taken must be checked at the WMA headquarters.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:2263 (November 1999), amended LR 26:2634 (November 2000), LR 27:2270 (December 2001), LR 28:2375 (November 2002), LR 29:2512 (November 2003), LR 30:2874 (December 2004), LR 31:3167 (December 2005), LR 32:2272 (December 2006), LR 33:2469 (November 2007), LR 35:91 (January 2009), LR 35:2478 (November 2009), LR 36:2581 (November 2010), LR 37: .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including, but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statement, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Mr. Kenneth Ribbeck, Wildlife Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA, 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., September 7, 2011.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman